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Info:

ACTION: Amembassy ROME

INFO: Amembassy PARIS

STATE 85202

AV

CIVAIR. REF. Rome 2178.

1. Deputy Asst Secretary Loy contemplating attending Paris meeting of Institute Transport Aerien (ITA) on November 24 to 26. Dept considering desirability Loy proceeding to Rome/November evening 26 for very informal meeting with Capomazza on November 28 if Capomazza is available and also considers meeting desirable. Loy would not propose examine substantive problems with Capomazza in depth but has in mind discussion in general terms of broad aspects of forthcoming negotiations. In light GOI views (reftel) Dept has abandoned idea of preliminary session prior to January. Thus Loy would not be prepared in informal meeting to communicate USG position on any issue and would not expect Capomazza discussion to commit GOI in any way. Such talks might nonetheless serve to outline scope of negotiations and to make subsequent formal discussions more fruitful.

2. Loy presence in Rome would also be excellent occasion for visit to Rome of Regional Civil Air Attache Tom Carter. In addition to discussing general aviation topics with interested Embassy personnel, Carter would wish meet Foreign Ministry officials and would accompany Loy in making courtesy calls

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Clearances: TT - Mr. Loy OA - Mr. Bolster AIS - Mr. Blake
CAB - Mr. Watson

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on Civilavia officials as appropriate, presumably including Santini.

3. FYI: Dept believes Loy meeting with Capomazza could be very useful, particularly in getting further indications of Italy's desires and priorities. However, USG does not want create impression of anxiety over negotiations nor to complicate Capomazza relations with Civilavia or Alitalia by imposing talks on Capomazza prematurely. Loy and Capomazza could probably speak more freely if Civilavia officials not present but Dept wishes avoid suspicion or resentment of Santini. Carter's introduction could help give visit to Santini broader aviation purpose. END FYI.

Action requested:

1. Dept would appreciate Embassy comments on proposed visit. Embassy may also wish consider desirability of small luncheon or reception to which appropriate Italian officials could be invited.

2. If no objection perceived, Embassy requested explore above plans with Foreign Ministry and ascertain availability Capomazza. [redacted] Embassy also requested inquire discreetly whether Santini will be in Rome those days and whether Santini plans attend ITA meeting in Paris.

3. If Foreign Ministry reacts favorably to Loy visit, Embassy requested make hotel arrangements for Loy and Carter for November [redacted] 26 through 28.

END

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